

Press Release

To be released Sunday, August 22

Winding up his first extended tour of the 1948 campaign, Norman Thomas, Socialist candidate for President, will address a convention sponsored by the Nebraskans for Norman Thomas this afternoon at the 4-H Building at the State Fair Grounds, 17th and Holdrege. The convention, which is being held in an attempt to form a new party in order to qualify Thomas and his running mate, Tucker P. Smith, for the Nebraska ballot, will begin at 4:00 p.m.

Thomas, making his sixth Presidential bid on the Socialist ticket, will be the fourth prominent Presidential candidate to address a public meeting in Lincoln this year. Earlier, Thomas E. Dewey appeared as did two of the men he defeated for the Republican nomination, Harold E. Stassen and Senator Robert Taft.

As convention time drew near, the Nebraskans for Norman Thomas were confident that they would be able to secure the signatures of the 750 eligible voters required by state law to form a new party. Responses to announcements sent out to approximately two thousand people throughout the state have been favorable, they reported, adding that inquiries about the convention have come in from Kansas, Iowa, and South Dakota as well.

Labor, dissatisfied with the two old parties and disappointed in Wallace's failure to shake off the influence of forces detrimental to organized labor, is expected to throw its strength to Thomas as a preliminary step toward building an effective third party in 1952 made up of various non-Communist liberal elements.

Other sources from which the Thomas supporters expect backing are the non-partisan voters and liberal Republicans and Democrats who are disillusioned by the political maneuverings within their respective parties, which have resulted in the nomination of machine politicians.

Norman Thomas, who is 63, was born in Marion, Ohio, and attended Bucknell College before going to Princeton where he was graduated as valedictorian of his class in 1905. He was ordained in the Presbyterian church in 1911, but left the ministry after six years to devote all of his energies to social, economic, and political issues without any restrictions. Ensuing years found him the editor of The World Tomorrow and later associate editor of The Nation. Co-founder with Roger Baldwin of the American Civil Liberties Union, he also helped Dr. Harry Laidler rebuild the League for Industrial Democracy. At present he is chairman of the Post War World Council. In 1932, after being refused for six years the right to speak on the Princeton campus, Princeton awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters in recognition of his contribution to American life.

NEBRASKANS FOR NORMAN THOMAS 1439 S Street, Lincoln 8, c/o Joseph Ishikawa

Press Release

To be release on August 19, 1948

The NEBRASKANS FOR NORMAN THOMAS today released a statement regarding their chances of obtaining enough signatures to form a new party in the state in order to place Norman Thomas and Tucker P. Smith on the November ballot. To this end, the NEBRASKANS FOR NORMAN THOMAS are holding a convention in the 4-H Building at the State Fair Grounds, 17th and Holdrege, this Sunday, August 22, at 4:00 p.m. The statement follows:

"Our principal hope of success in the convention this Sunday lies with the freethinkers in both major parties along with the independents who have aligned themselves with neither. We face the onerous task of trying to get the signatures and proper voting addresses of 750 eligible voters, a task made more difficult by the fact that our platform is aimed at the independent thinker who will not easily be made to face the regimentation required to obtain the signatures. It is a job which we are by no means sure the Democrats or Republicans could easily achieve were they faced with the same necessity.

"Vital factors in the success or failure of our convention are the Democrats who are disillusioned with their party's failure to live up to the Jeffersonian ideals and the liberal Republicans who finally realize the anomaly of their voting with the GOP merely because it represents the chief political influence in the state.

"If such as these are convinced at last that the organizational set-up of the major parties does not allow for any liberalizing movement from within, that such liberalism as does arise is only of a superficial nature and is either the accident of political maneuvering or the result of third party pressure, then we have an excellent chance of qualifying Norman Thomas and Tucker P. Smith for the November ballot."

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ATTENTION EDITORS: Mr. Thomas will hold a press conference in his room at the Hotel Cornhusker, 13th & N, at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, August 22.

NEBRASKANS FOR NORMAN THOMAS 1439 "S" Street, Lincoln 8, c/o Joseph Ishikawa

Press Release

To be released on or after August 11, 1948

According to a statement issued by the Nebraskans for Norman Thomas, the state convention sponsored by them in an effort to place the Socialist ticket on the state ballot will be held in the 4-H Building at the State Fair Grounds in Lincoln on Sunday, August 22. The time of the convention will be 4:00 p.m.

Principal speaker at the rally, open to the public, will be Norman Thomas, who is making his sixth bid for the Presidency on the Socialist ticket.

Frequently called "The Conscience of America" because of his outspoken criticisms of existing policies and conditions, Norman Thomas is making an extended tour of the West. Lincoln will be the last point on his itinerary before he returns to New York to open his Eastern campaign. This will be the only opportunity for Nebraskans to meet the veteran campaigner inasmuch as it will be his only public appearance in the state during this campaign.

Although the Republican and the Democratic parties through the years have adopted superficially many of the "radical" things for which Thomas stood in 1928 when he first became the standard bearer of the Socialist Party, Thomas has been critical of their tendency to adopt the forms without understanding the basic philosophy behind them.

Accusing President Truman of seeking "to make a record for the campaign" in calling the special session of Congress, Thomas said in a radio speech over the National Broadcasting System on July 30, "While I should favor most of the things the President wants, merely to pass laws for them without an underlying philosophy or a planned correlation of them would increase the inflationary trends of which he complains beyond the power of anything he proposes to prevent."

Scoring the current policy of making prosperity dependent on armaments, Thomas stated in the same speech that "if, by a blessed miracle, the terribly costly and dangerous race in arms could be ended tomorrow morning at ten o'clock, there would be panic in America. Peace would have snatched away the principal prop of our prosperity."

Thomas, who was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by his alma mater, Princeton University, will have for his running mate, Tucker P. Smith, head of the economics department at Olivet College, Michigan.

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ATTENTION EDITORS: Mr. Thomas will arrive from Denver by United Air Lines at 11:40 a.m. There will be a press conference in his room (hotel undecided) at 3:00 p.m. For other appointments or information, please write Joseph Ishikawa, 1439 "S" Street, Lincoln 8, Nebraska.

NEBRASKANS FOR NORMAN THOMAS 1439 "S" Street, Lincoln, c/o Joseph Ishikawa

Press Release

To be released on or after August 4th.

The Nebraskans for Norman Thomas released today the announcement that Norman Thomas, Socialist candidate for President, will address a state convention in Lincoln on August 22nd. The convention is being held to secure a place on the Nebraska ballot for Thomas and his running mate, Tucker P. Smith, head of the economics department at Olivet College, Michigan. The Nebraskans for Norman Thomas, whose temporary headquarters are at 1439 "S" Street, Lincoln, c/o Joseph Ishikawa, have announced that the convention will not be a delegate affair but will be open to the public.

This will be Thomas' only Nebraska appearance during the current campaign. Nebraska election laws require in part the signatures of at least 750 electors at a convention.

Thomas, who has often been called "The Conscience of America" because of his straightforward criticisms of administrative and legislative policies, is seeking the Presidency for the sixth time on the Socialist Party ticket.

According to one\* of the local Thomas supporters, "Added to the fact that both major parties have nominated machine politicians, the presence of Henry Wallace on the Presidential scene with his Stalinist backing has made it more than ever imperative that the people of Nebraska be offered the opportunity of voting for the only candidate who has a positive program for international peace and domestic prosperity."

Born in Marion, Ohio, in 1884, Thomas attended Bucknell College for a year before going to Princeton, graduating at the head of his class in 1905. After two years of settlement work in the slums of New York, he took a trip around the world and on his return entered Union Seminary and was ordained in the Presbyterian church in 1911.

For the next six years, he served as pastor of the East Harlem Presbyterian Church, ultimately straining his relations with the church by his attitude toward the first World War and his espousal of socialism. When his activities finally brought him into conflict with certain policies of the church, he gracefully resigned from the pulpit to devote all of his energies to social, economic, and political issues without any restrictions.

Ensuing years found him the editor of The World Tomorrow and later the associate editor of The Nation. With Roger Baldwin, he helped found the National Civil Liberties Bureau which is now the American Civil Liberties Union, and with Dr. Harry Laidler, he rebuilt the League for Industrial Democracy.

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*In 1932 after being refused for six years the right to speak on the*

Princeton campus, his alma Mater finally granted him the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters in recognition of his contribution to American life.

Because of his forthright views, he is widely sought after as a member of panel discussion groups of the Town Meeting of the Air type of broadcast.

This year, Thomas made political and journalistic history by attending the Philadelphia conventions of the Republican, Democratic, and Progressive Parties as a news columnist for a national syndicate headed by the Denver Post. He is the first Presidential candidate to attend the national conventions of all his rival parties although Nebraska's William Jennings Bryan reported the Republican national convention shortly before he was nominated by the Democrats.

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N. B. The convention hall will be announced at an early date.

ATTENTION EDITORS: LOOK magazine for August 17, 1948, has an article by Norman Thomas on pp 34-38.

Clippings of the above article from your newspapers will be gratefully received.

Address: Joseph Ishikawa, 1439 "S" Street, Lincoln 8, Nebraska